

USTR's expectations of what would result. Full compliance with these terms, as defined in Ambassador Kantor's letter, is essential if the agreement is to achieve its objectives.

Because faithful implementation of this accord is so important, Senator BOXER, the ranking member on the subcommittee, and I recently sent to Ambassador Kantor a letter requesting a detailed and comprehensive report to the committee this month on all actions taken to date by the Government of Japan to implement its obligations under the insurance agreement. It is my hope that the Senate's interest will serve as a constructive influence to help ensure that this important agreement, and other agreements, stay on track and live up to their full potential.

Mr. President, I ask that our letter to Ambassador Kantor, as well as Ambassador Kantor's letter to the U.S. insurance industry of October 11, 1994, be printed in the RECORD.

The letters follow:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, November 8, 1995.

Hon. MICHAEL KANTOR,
U.S. Trade Representative,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: We are writing to share with you our commitment to ensuring full and effective implementation of trade agreements between the United States and Japan. You have often stated it is not enough simply to reach agreements with our trading partners, but that we must also be vigilant in guaranteeing that the rights gained under those agreements are fully realized. We could not agree more strongly.

As part of our Subcommittee's ongoing oversight responsibilities in this regard, we would like to request a detailed report on the results of actions taken to date to implement the commitments defined in the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement and in your October 11, 1994 letter to the U.S. insurance industry concerning certain key aspects of the Agreement.

We are concerned about reports that, as the implementation date for the new Japanese Insurance Business Law approaches, developments in Japan may pose serious threats to U.S. insurance interests. For example, plans by large Japanese insurers to enter the "third sector" through newly created subsidiaries, pose both a major commercial threat to U.S. insurers and a probable violation of the insurance agreement. The Subcommittee is particularly concerned about the inadequacy of actions taken to date by the Ministry of Finance to ensure compliance with those provisions related to this activity.

Accordingly, we request you provide a report to the Subcommittee on these and other actions taken to date by the Government of Japan to implement obligations under the agreement, as well as the results of those actions. Please also describe additional actions USTR will take to ensure ongoing implementation of the agreement's other provisions.

We would appreciate receiving your report within the next two weeks so we may proceed with our review. The Subcommittee is considering a future hearing to review the results of various U.S.-Japan trade agreements; your report on the insurance agreement will help us prepare for any such meeting.

We appreciate your efforts on behalf of U.S. insurers, and look forward to your report.

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND

THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT,

Washington, DC, October 11, 1994.

Mr. H. EDWARD HANWAY,
Chairman, International Insurance Council,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HANWAY: I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the industry's support during our negotiations with the Government of Japan on insurance. I am pleased to confirm that we have achieved agreement with the Government of Japan, through which Japan and the United States will undertake "Measures by the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan Regarding Insurance". The goal of the Agreement is to achieve significant improvement in market access in Japan for competitive foreign insurance providers and intermediaries.

With respect to the third sector issue, the Agreement states that:

"With regard to mutual entry¹ of life and non-life insurance companies into the third sector, the MOF intends not to allow such liberalization to be implemented as long as a substantial portion of the life and non-life areas is not deregulated, taking into account the fact that dependency of some medium to small and foreign insurance providers on the third sector is high, and that these medium to small and foreign insurance providers have made the efforts to serve the specific needs of consumers in the third sector. Furthermore, with respect to new or expanded introduction of products in the third sector, it is appropriate to avoid any radical change in the business environment, recognizing that such change should depend on medium to small and foreign insurance providers first having sufficient opportunities (i.e. a reasonable period) to compete on equal terms in major product categories in the life and non-life sectors through the flexibility to differentiate, on the basis of the risk insured, the rates, forms, and distribution of products."

Based on a confirmation made during the negotiations with the Government of Japan, I would like to affirm the following:

(1) with respect to existing large Japanese life and non-life companies, "avoid any radical change" means, among other things, that the Ministry of Finance (MOF) will maintain existing administrative practices concerning the third sector and not allow such companies to expand their third sector presence;

(2) with respect to subsidiaries that existing large Japanese life and non-life companies might form after the new insurance law takes effect, "avoid any radical change" means, among other things, that such subsidiaries will be treated the same as existing large life and non-life Japanese companies and accordingly will not be allowed to surge into the third sector;

(3) "major product categories" includes automobile insurance; and

(4) "a reasonable period" means three years.

With regard to rate and from liberalization, in addition to the specific commit-

¹ "Mutual entry" means the ability of life insurance companies to introduce existing, new or modified rates, products, or riders in the third sector currently allowed to non-life insurance companies, and the ability of non-life insurance companies to introduce existing, new or modified rates, products, or riders in the third sector currently allowed to life insurance companies.

ments made in the Agreement, I would like to affirm that:

(1) with respect to the threshold for application of the special discount rate applicable to the large commercial risks of fire insurance, the discount will be reduced from 2 to 1.5 billion yen for factory fire insurance and from 1.5 to 1 billion yen for general fire insurance; and the threshold for storage (warehouse) insurance will be unchanged; and

(2) with respect to the minimum insured amount of the large commercial fire insurance policies to which the deductibles rider can be attached, the minimum insured amount will be decreased from 5 billion yen to 1.5 billion yen.

The Agreement creates binding obligations on the Government of Japan enforceable under U.S. trade laws, such as Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. The Agreement provides for follow-up consultations between the Government of Japan and the United States Government. We expect to hold such consultations twice a year during the first three years upon signing of the Agreement, and annually thereafter. With U.S. insurance industry's assistance, we expect to monitor closely developments in the third sector to ensure that the Government of Japan is in compliance with the Agreement.

We very much appreciate the International Insurance Council's support and assistance during our negotiating efforts and look forward to working with the Council to ensure effective implementation of the Agreement.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL KANTOR.

TREASURY-POSTAL APPROPRIATIONS

—Continued—>?@ABCDEFGHIJKLMNQPQRSTUVWXYZI—

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, yesterday I voted for the Treasury-Postal appropriations conference report because I believe we must send along appropriations bills to the President since we are now nearly 2 months into the current fiscal year and the Government is shutdown. However, I would like to make it clear that I do not support, and have not supported in the past, the so-called Hyde language in this bill which would prohibit any Federal funding for abortion except in the case of rape, incest, or preserving the life of the mother. I have long felt that if abortions are allowed under our laws, then I can't find justification for limiting the option of Federal employees to obtain health plans that allow such coverage, as most private sector employees have. For this reason, while I voted for this bill given our Government's current dire economic status, I want to make it clear that I am opposed to the Hyde language which appears in this bill and hope there will be an opportunity later to reconsider it.●

GOVERNOR SAYS HE'S WORRIED STATE MAY BE TOO DEPENDENT ON GAMBLING

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask that the following article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows: